

THE GARDEN CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA VISITING GARDENS 2018-2020

The events of Visiting Gardens, although somewhat curtailed, were FUN ...as per President Merrill's request. My goals were two-fold: to continue to encourage popups as a means of sharing gardens and camaraderie, and to have as many trips outside Santa Barbara as feasible. Our members graciously opened their gardens or organized alternative garden pop-ups in 2019. Unfortunately, the Spring 2020 popups could not take place. Fortunately, we were able to enjoy a fabulous trip to Palm Desert in April 2019. A number of our members organized meals at clubs or in their homes. The personal touch greatly enhances any trip. Our May, 2020 trip to Northern California to visit the gardens of 5 GCA Clubs was cancelled due to Coronavirus. I am so grateful to the various Club Chairmen and to Lisa dell'Orso for helping me plan such a fabulous trip. A number of our club members are still keen to take the trip, when safe. We had also planned on making day trips to visit gardens in West Los Angeles and Hancock Park.

We had visitors from 4 GCA clubs tour our Santa Barbara Gardens. It is such a bonus to meet other GCA members this way. Additionally, we were delighted that Zone X hosted the conference for the 12 Visiting Gardens Chairmen in Santa Barbara April 2019. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone through garden tours and at a dinner I held for them and their spouses at my home.

I would like to reinforce the importance of sharing ideas. I first heard about "popups/popovers" years ago from Ulrike Schlafley (St. Louis Garden Club) and decided to start pop ups at our club. They have been a great success. Mary Hampson